SKELETAL
HALLUCINATION
LINDA
MOTA

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE VEIL LIFTS MORE.

DELERIUM

WHO WERE YOU?
NEVERMIND. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SEE YOU.
WOULD YOU FIND ME IF I FELT THE SAME TOWARDS THIS?
I HATE YOU.

IT'S 3 PM AND I'M STILL IN BED.
IT'S COME BACK AGAIN, BUT IN THE SHAPE OF MY DOG. WONDER IF IT'S TAUNTING ME.
Get up. Get up. Get up. Get up.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?

IT'S NOT LIKE I EXPECTED YOU TO LEAVE.
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
YEA?

I REMEMBER MY PARENTS TELLING ME I GOT A DIAGNOSIS FOR SOMETHING.
I GOT A HINT OF IT, BUT IT WAS TOO VAGUE TO REALLY TELL.
IN MY DAD'S COUNTRY HAVING A CHILD WITH BRAIN WITCHERY WAS AKIN TO A DEFORMITY.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
A MENTAL LEPER?
ILL?
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MAN.

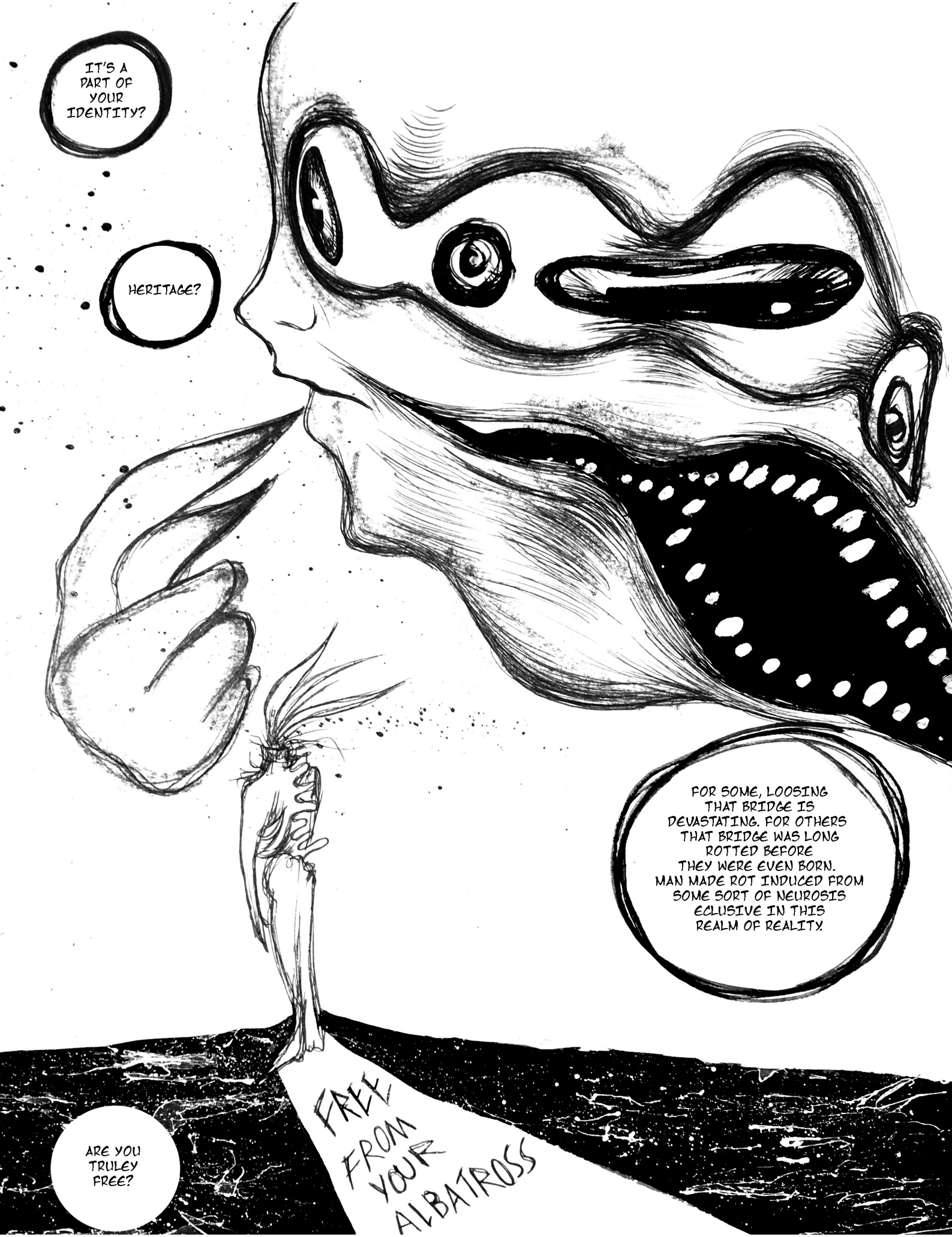
I USED TO THINK THAT.
WAS IT BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WERE MALE?
OR WAS IT A FORM OF UNPACKING TRAUMA DURING CERTAIN STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT?

A PRODUCT OF CONSUMING HYPER VIOLENT MOVIES AT A YOUNG AGE WITH GENEROUS AMOUNT OF SEX AND BODY HORROR?
WHEN WE WERE LITTLE, DAD HAD US SIT WITH HIM AND WATCH HIS MOVIES.

ONE MOVIE IN PARTICULAR STICKS OUT FROM THE LATE NINETIES.
BORDELLO OF BLOOD.
DAD WOULD SCREAM AT US TO COVER OUR EYES WHEN THE TOPLESS VAMPIRE GIRLS APPEARED. HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT US TURNING INTO LESBIANS.

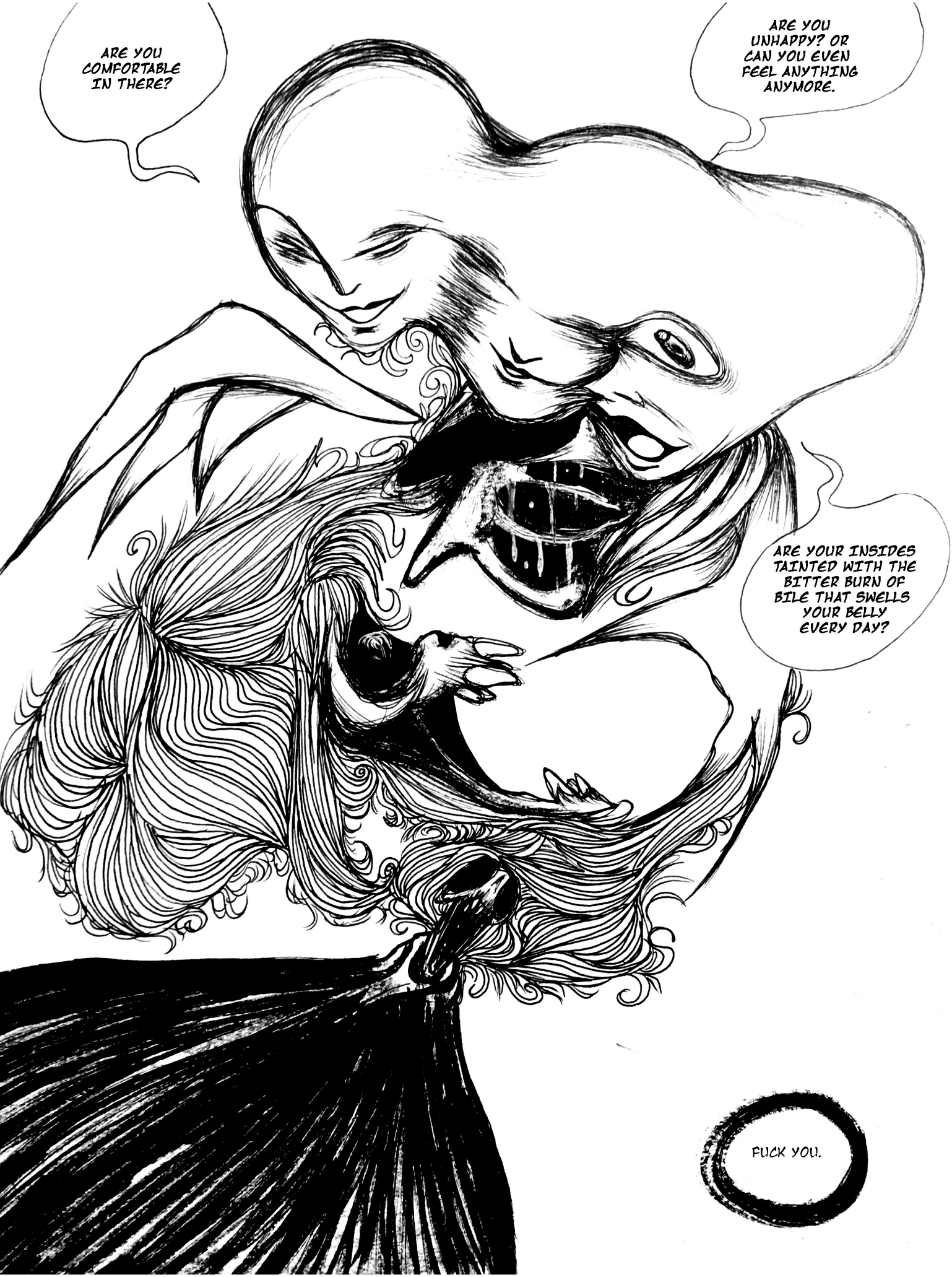
I MEAN HE WAS HALF RIGHT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE A SINGLE MOVIE PLAYED A ROLE ON THAT.
STILL, IT'S AN ODD THING TO FREAK OUT ABOUT...
...CONSIDERING THEM...AND THE THINGS THEY DID THAT REMAINS BEHIND A DUSTY VEIL.
ATTATCHMENTS SOME SEEK LONG SEVERED.

AS PAINFUL AS IT WAS... THERE WAS A BLESSING HAVING THAT FREEDOM.
ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THAT?
REJECTION FROM BLOOD TIES FREES ONE FROM CERTAIN PRESSURES.


IT'S A PART OF YOUR IDENTITY?
HERITAGE?
FOR SOME, LOOSING THAT BRIDGE IS DEVASTATING. FOR OTHERS THAT BRIDGE WAS LONG ROTTED BEFORE THEY WERE EVEN BORN. MAN MADE ROT INDUCED FROM SOME SORT OF NEUROSIS ECLUSIVE IN THIS REALM OF REALITY.
FREE FROM YOUR ALBATROSS
ARE YOU TRULEY FREE?

IT BRINGS THE QUESTION OF WHERE YOU BELONG.
IS THERE A PLACE AMONG YOUR PEOPLE FOR THE SPAWN OF TWO BLACK SHEEP?
MAKE YOURSELF ANEW! BECOME THE OPPOSITE OF YOUR NATURE!

A COWORKER TOLD ME ABOUT A NEWLY DISCOVERED FAMILY MEMBER.
YOU'RE RESENTFUL YOU BITCH
THEY LOOKED SO EXCITED TELLING ME ABOUT THIS WONDERFUL FIND, BUT IT WAS HARD TO RELATE.
APATHY AND BITTERNESS COMBING INTO SOMETHING TERRIBLE...


ARE YOU COMFORTABLE IN THERE?
ARE YOU UNHAPPY? OR CAN YOU EVEN FEEL ANYTHING ANYMORE.
ARE YOUR INSIDES TAINTED WITH THE BITTER BURN OF BILE THAT SWELLS YOUR BELLY EVERY DAY?
FUCK YOU.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE HIDING BEHIND THE MATERIAL OF THE DEAD?!
BEGONE WITH YOUR SECURITY BLANKET!
FUCK.

DURING MORE INTENSE TIMES I'D SEE THEM.
THE SHADOW MEN.

IF THEY'RE SIX FEET OR SHORTER THEY'RE BENEVOLENT.
WHEN THEY'RE TALLER, IT'S IT'S MUCH MORE MALICIOUS.
YOU CAN'T RUN.

THEY WERE MORE AGRESSIVE WITH DEFINED FEATURES.

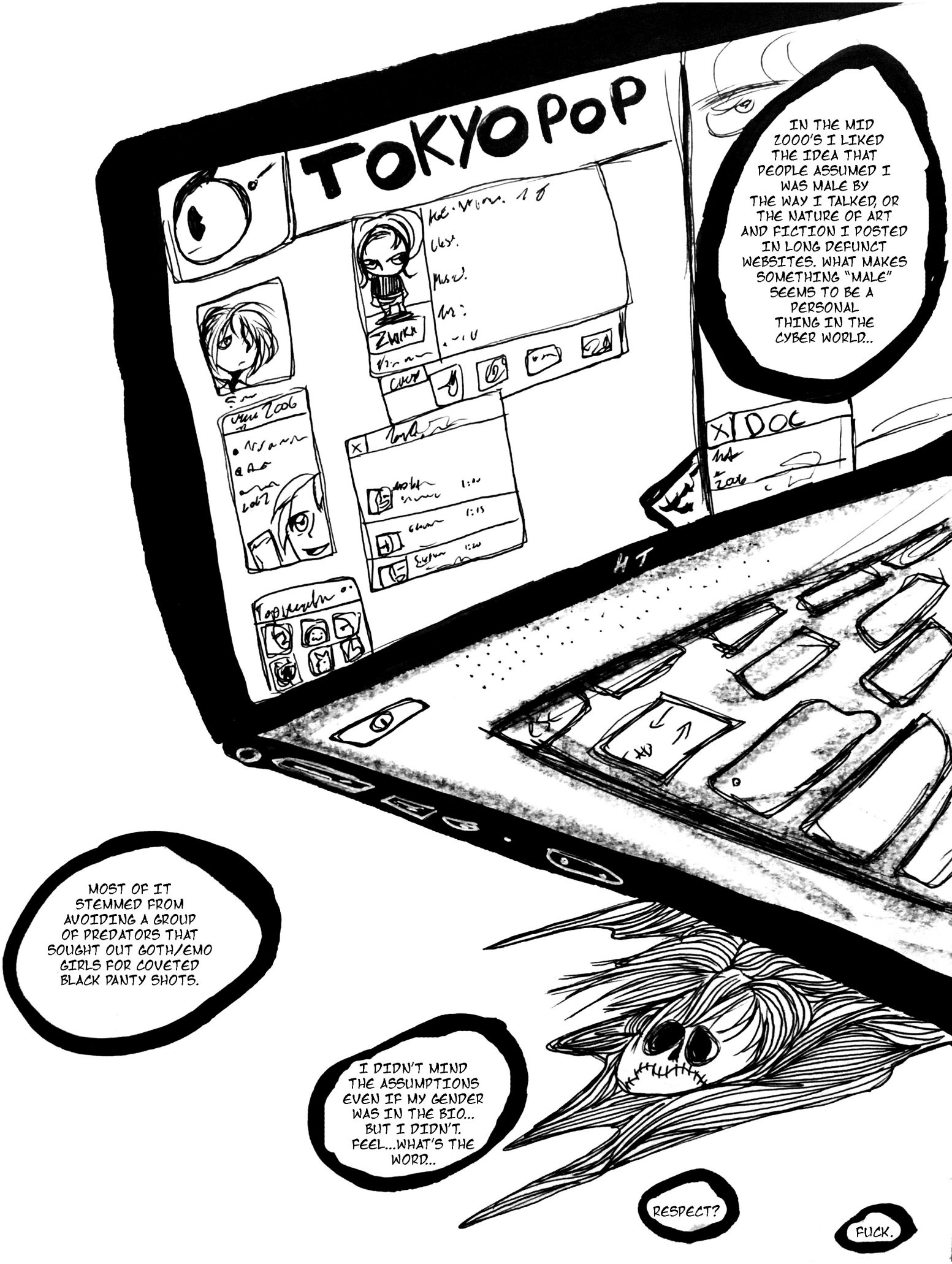
HANDS WRAPPING AROUND MY THROAT, OR A HEAVY WEIGHT ON MY CHEST.
IN DREAMS THEY SOUNDED LIKE TV STATIC.
IF I'M LUCKY THE WHITE ONES WOULD APPEAR IN PLACE OF THE SHADOW MEN.
THEY HAD NO FACE, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS SLENDER.
SOME SAY THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ANGELS.

I SAW THEM MORE WITH DREAMS FOCUSING ON RELATIONSHIPS AND SELF DISCOVERY.
OH SHIT I HOPE THAT (REDACTED) IS OKAY WITH THIS.
THEY WERE NEVER AROUND WHEN THE ASSAULT DREAMS OCCURED.

MMM.
AH.
I HAVEN'T FELT THE SOFTNESS OF YOUR BODY IN SO LONG. YOU SMELL SO GOOD. I FEEL SOMETHING AGAIN...
I'M HARD.
I HAD A FRIEND SAY THAT IF YOU'RE BEING ASSAULTED IN A DREAM, IT'S YOUR BODY TRYING TO WAKE YOU UP. THERE IS A FIEND COMMITING THE ACT IN THE PHSYCAL WORLD.
I LOST SLEEP BECAUSE OF THAT.

DREAMS WHERE I WAS CLOSE TO WOMEN WERE MORE POSITIVE.
I'M NOT CERTAIN IT WAS TELLING ME SOMETHING, BUT DREAMS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LITERAL...
WHAT ARE YOU ANYWAY? GAY? ACE? POSSIBLY AN EGG?
OR ALL THREE!

DOES IT MATTER?


TOKYOPOP
IN THE MID 2000'S I LIKED THE IDEA THAT PEOPLE ASSUMED I WAS MALE BY THE WAY I TALKED, OR THE NATURE OF ART AND FICTION I POSTED IN LONG DEFUNCT WEBSITES. WHAT MAKES SOMETHING "MALE" SEEMS TO BE A PERSONAL THING IN THE CYBER WORLD...
MOST OF IT STEMMED FROM AVOIDING A GROUP OF PREDATORS THAT SOUGHT OUT GOTH/EMO GIRLS FOR COVETED BLACK PANTY SHOTS.
I DIDN'T MIND THE ASSUMPTIONS EVEN IF MY GENDER WAS IN THE BIO... BUT I DIDN'T. FEEL...WHAT'S THE WORD..
RESPECT?
FUCK.

I ALWAYS FELT I WAS MORE RESPECTED WHEN PEOPLE ASSUMED I WAS MALE...BUT I DON'T REJECT MY FEMININITY.
WOULD YOU LIKE AN EGG IN THESE TIMES?
I HATE YOU, PLEASE FUCK OFF WITH YOUR SHIT.

DAD WASN'T DISCREET THAT HE WAS UPSET HE HAD DAUGHTERS FIRST.
BEING THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MY SIBLINGS I FELT I HAD TO TAKE ON A STRONGER ROLE IN BOTH TAKING CARE OF THE YOUNGER ONES, AND TRYING TO BE STRONG ENOUGH WHERE I DIDN'T APPEAR AS "WEAK".
I DON'T THINK IT WORKED. YOU'RE TRYING TO PUT MEANING IN CHILDHOOD NUANCES.
CRUNCH
I LIKE BEING WHAT I WAS GIVEN IN THIS REALM.

IS IT A RESPONSE TO TRAUMA AND THE AGE OF SPIRITUAL DEATH?
IS IT YOU? AN ACT OF ESCAPING YOUR HATED BODY? A DESIRE TO SHED THE BLACK WOOL?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE TENDENCY TO MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE, WHEN OTHER PEOPLE THAT SURROUND THEIR LIFE REMIND THEM OF WHAT THEY TRY TO SUPRESS.
BE IT A PAST TRAUMA, EVIL ACTS, OR SOMETHING BREWING INSIDE OF THEM IN A MASK OF FALSEHOOD.
IT'S ALSO A SIDE EFFECT TO PORN SICKNESS. THE BLUR OF REALITY AND FANTASY.
HEY, COME ON NOW. WHEN DOES STEWING HELP YOU?
YOU'RE NOT HER.

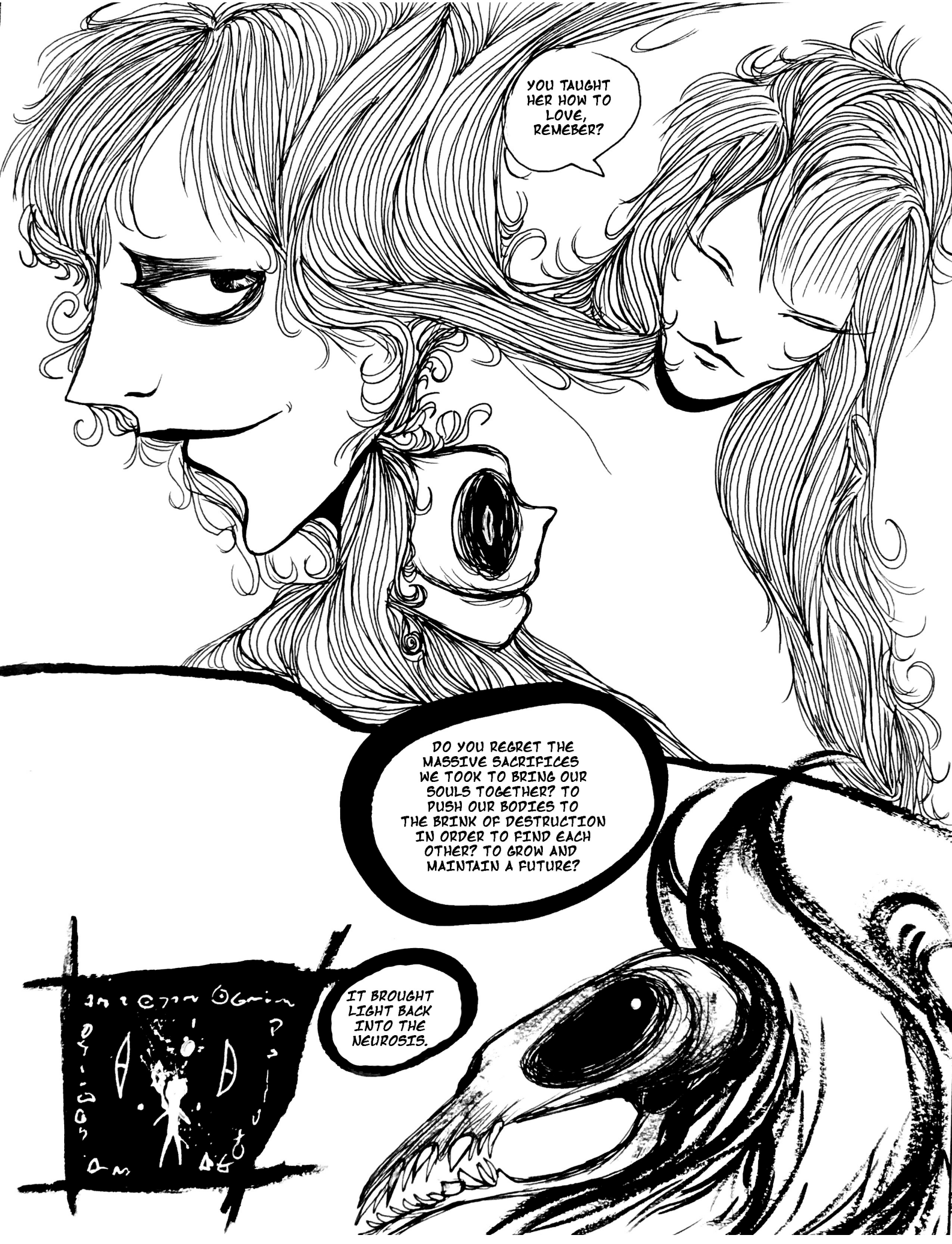
WHAT A RACKET! BEING USED AS A FETISH, AND A CHILDISH IDEA OF THE DESIRABLE PARTNER.
YET TOSSED ASIDE AND ACCUSED OF BEING THE WHORE OF BABYLON.
IT'S QUITE A SURREAL FEELING ISN'T IT?
THIS IS NOT A PRODUCT OF THE MODERN AGE.

THE DREAMS COME BACK WITH A VENGENCE! DON'T TOUCH ME!
DON'T GIVE IT POWER.
FUCK OFF WHO ARE YOU?!
OR ELSE IT WILL TEAR YOU APART.
THE DESIRE.

HER. IT LOOKS LIKE HER, BUT IT'S NOT.
I LOVE HER. MY OTHER HALF. THE ONE PERSON WHO MADE ME FEEL LESS VILE.
HAVE THEY REALLY BECOME ANOTHER OBJECT OF MYSELF IN THIS STATE OF CATATONIA? OR IS IT A FAMILIAR FACE INSIDE THIS BRAIN WITHCERY.

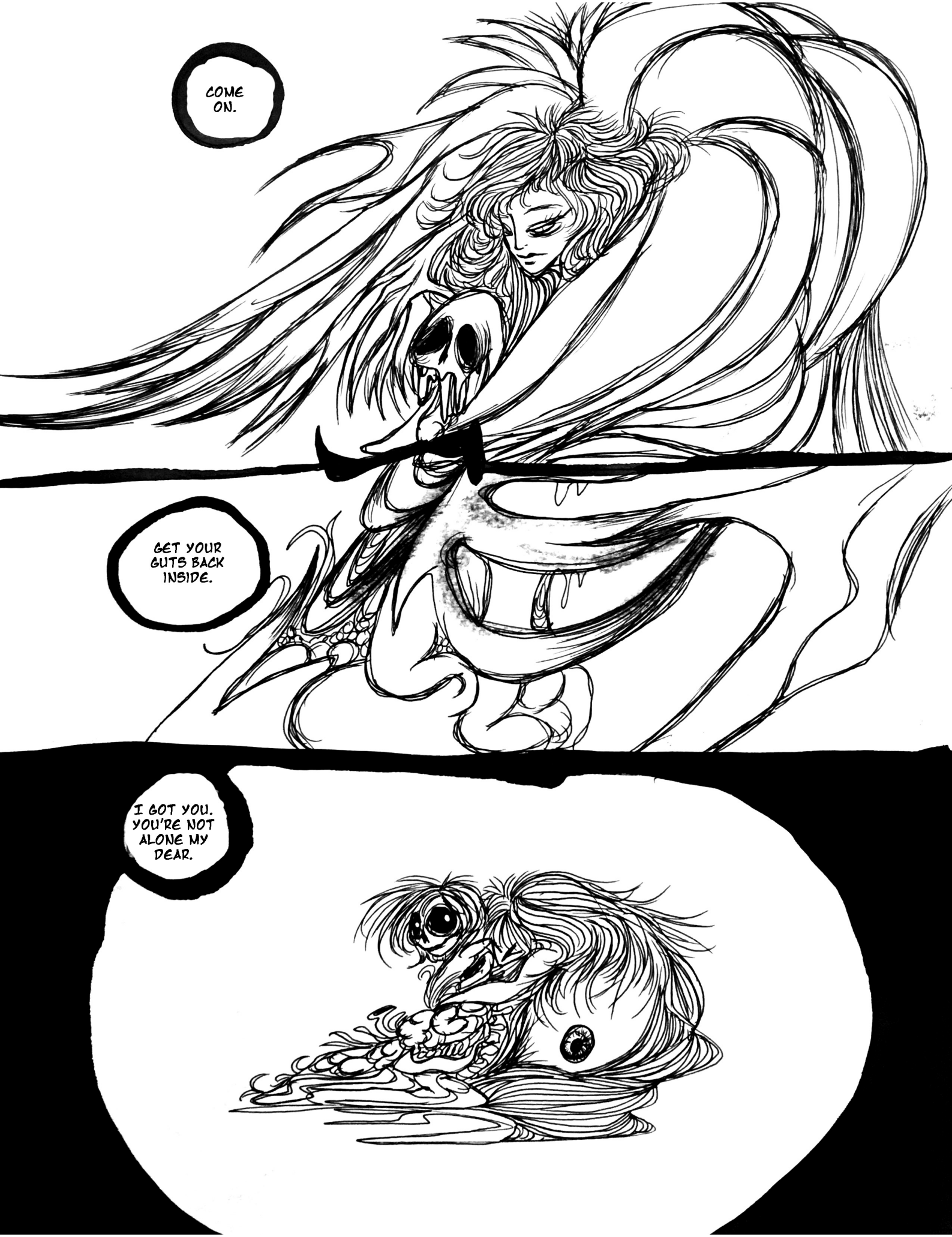
I ADMIT IT WAS HARD IN THE BEGINING.
CV
NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR TRANSITION, BUT TAKING A HUGE RISK IN OPENING MY COLD INSIDES.
BEING CAREFUL WHO KNOWS AND WHO CAN'T KNOW IS STILL ONGOING.
DIDN'T SOME PEOPLE STOP TALKING TO YOU, AND OLD ACCUSATIONS RISE FROM THE DEAD?

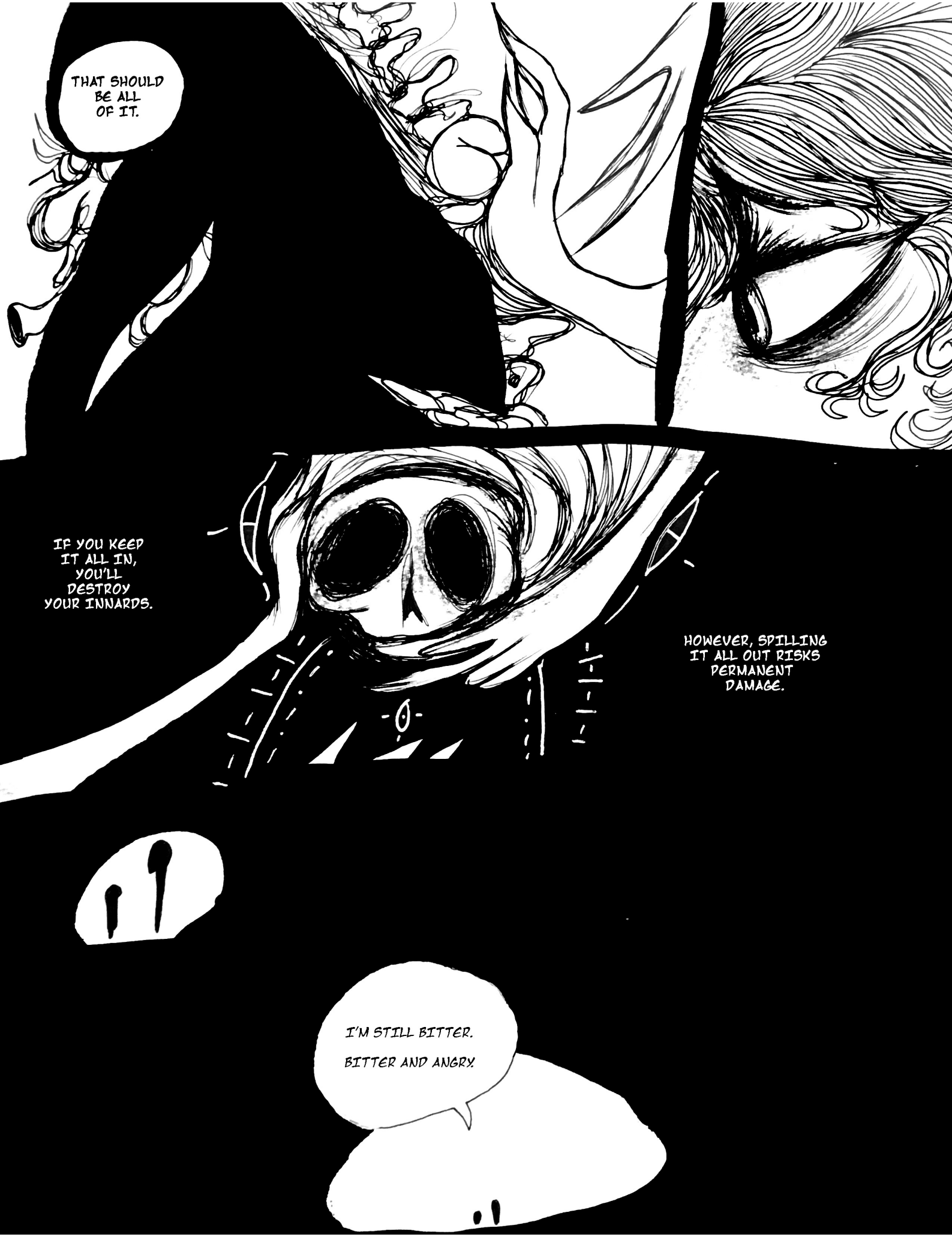
YOU LOVE HER? OR WHAT SHE IS?
I LOVE HER! I DON'T LIKE HOW YOU PHRASED THAT. WHY ELSE WOULD I COMMIT TO SOMEONE?
IF I MAY BE FRANK, THIS IS PROBABLY A RESULT OF MATRIMONY OF THE SOUL...
GENITALS MEAN NOTHING TO ME.
AND IF SHE...
DON'T CARE..
WE BOTH HAVE A FORM OF HATRED IN OUR BODIES...


YOU TAUGHT HER HOW TO LOVE, REMEBER?
DO YOU REGRET THE MASSIVE SACRIFICES WE TOOK TO BRING OUR SOULS TOGETHER? TO PUSH OUR BODIES TO THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION IN ORDER TO FIND EACH OTHER? TO GROW AND MAINTAIN A FUTURE?
IT BROUGHT LIGHT BACK INTO THE NEUROSIS.

HIDING. THAT'S ALL OUR BIRTH ENTAILED, AND FOR WHAT?
BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF THE FATHER? MOTHER? WHOEVER IS PERCEIVED AS THE WRONG-DOOER?
TUCKING AWAY AN ASPECT OF YOURSELF YOU DIDN'T AS TO BE BORN WITH?
OR DO WE WANT TO CHALK IT UP TO PLAIN OLD BRAIN WITCHERY?
BITTERNESS WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU...

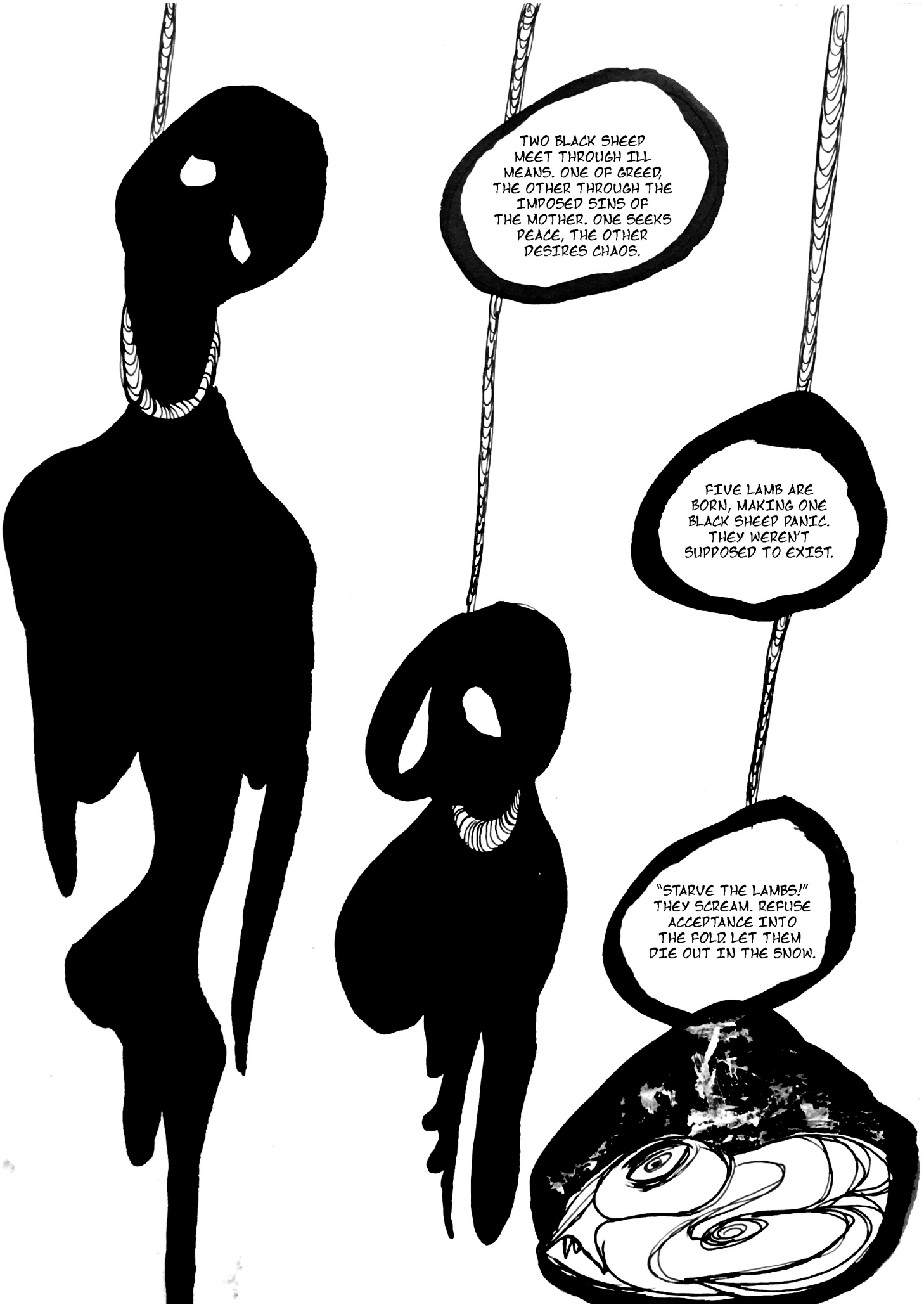
YOUR OWN PEOPLE WILL REJECT YOU FOR MAN MADE SLIGHTS.
IT'S MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK.
IF THERE'S A GLIMMER IN THIS SEA OF BILE, IT'S SEEING THOSE WHO SOUGHT YOU HIDDEN OR DEAD SEETHE BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCCESSFUL.


COME ON.
GET YOUR GUTS BACK INSIDE.
I GOT YOU. YOU'RE NOT ALONE MY DEAR.


THAT SHOULD BE ALL OF IT.
IF YOU KEEP IT ALL IN, YOU'LL DESTROY YOUR INNARDS.
HOWEVER, SPILLING IT ALL OUT RISKS PERMANENT DAMAGE.
I'M STILL BITTER.
BITTER AND ANGRY.

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? WRECK MY HARD WORK?
I THINK FOR OUR SAKE YOU SHOULD GET RID OF ALL THAT BILE SO WE CAN PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER. OKAY?
HURK

WHAT BETTER WAY TO COMBAT BITTERNESS THAN WITH VENGEFUL SPITE? A FORMAL "EAT SHIT" TO THOSE WHO SEEK ILL WILL.
FEIGN IGNORANCE OF THOSE TYPES IS THE POLITE WAY OF MOCKING THEM. IT MEANS LESS POWER FOR THEM.
IN THE END WE ALL WILL FACE THE UNKNOWN, AND MEET OUR MAKER.
IT'S A DELICATE BALANCE TO KEEP, THOUGH.

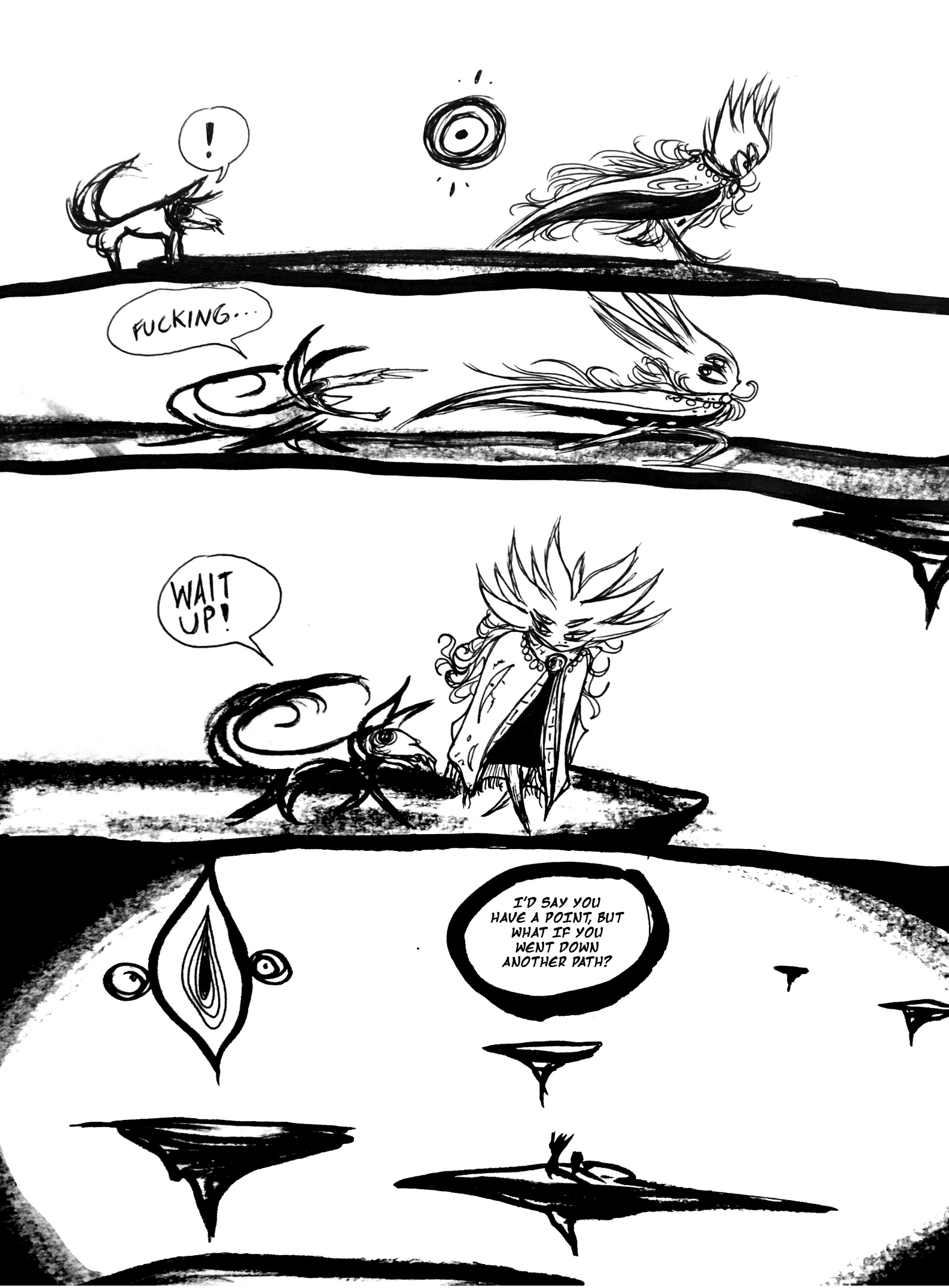

TWO BLACK SHEEP MEET THROUGH ILL MEANS. ONE OF GREED, THE OTHER THROUGH THE IMPOSED SINS OF THE MOTHER. ONE SEEKS PEACE, THE OTHER DESIRES CHAOS.
FIVE LAMB ARE BORN, MAKING ONE BLACK SHEEP PANIC. THEY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST.
"STARVE THE LAMBS!" THEY SCREAM. REFUSE ACCEPTANCE INTO THE FOLD. LET THEM DIE OUT IN THE SNOW.

I SEEM TO HAVE MADE A PREDICAMENT FOR MYSELF. DID I MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS MY MOTHER, AND MARRY OUT OF RESPONSE TO MY STUPID TRAUMA?
LETTING IT FESTER AGAIN?
I CAN'T HELP BUT LET IT FESTER. IT'S ALL I KNOW HOW TO DO. FOR GOD'S SAKE I DON'T EVEN SEE THE SAME PERSON IN THE MIRROR. ALWAYS A GENDERLESS BLOB OF FAT.
REALITY AND NEUROSIS BLUR.
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO ARE YOU REALLY?
I'M NOT HERE...
LIKE HELL YOU DID!

I THINK... I'LL TAKE HER WORD FOR IT. MY SPOUSE SEEMS TO HAVE A BETTER HEAD.
YAWN...
I WOULDN'T CALL IT "BETTER," THINK OF IT AS HAVING SOMEONE COMPLIMENT THE DISTORTED PARTS. WORKING TOGETHER TO COME BACK INTO REALITY. ADJUSTING COMBINED FLESH THROUGH A PROMISE.

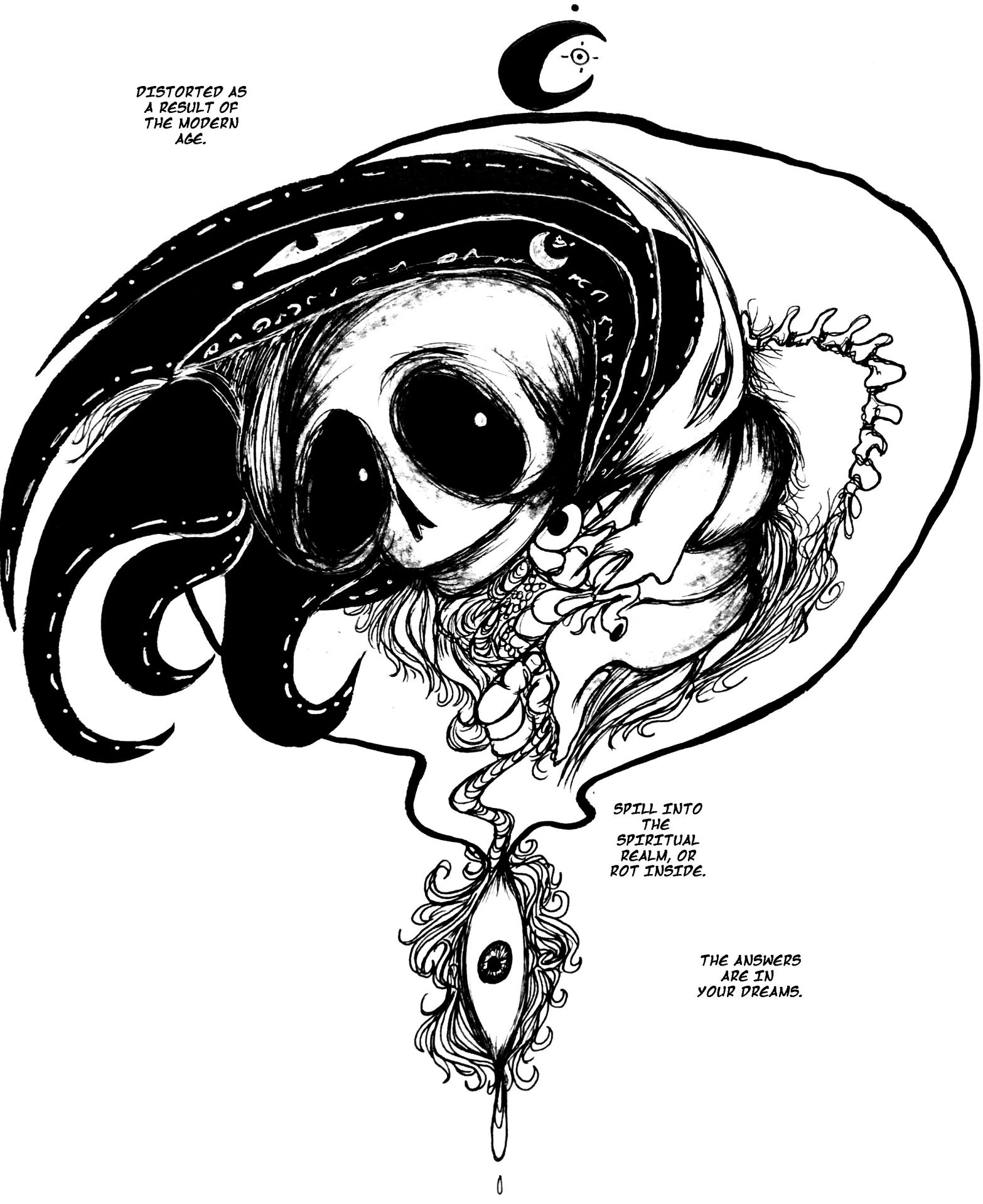
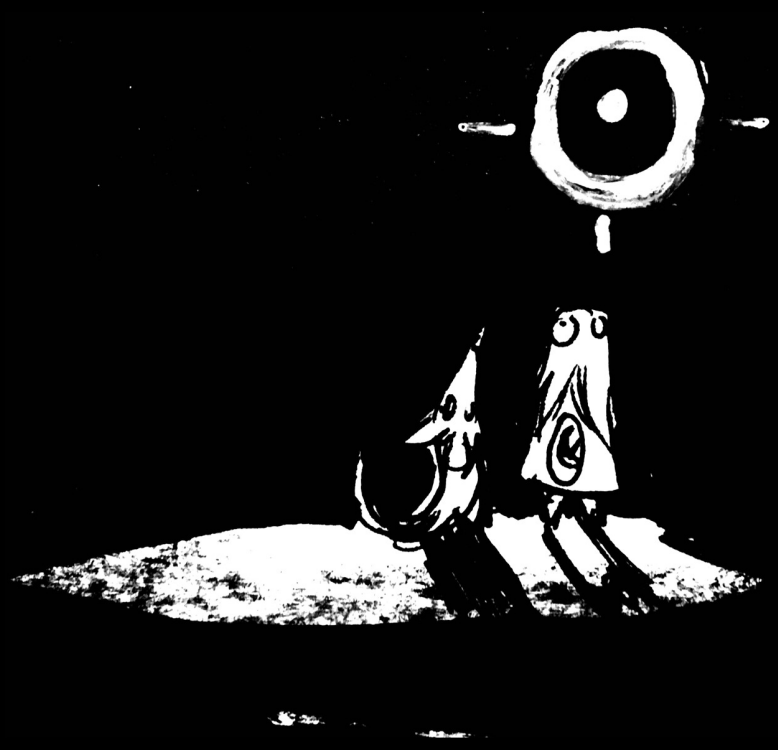
WELCOME BACK. IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU.
WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D PULL YOURSELF BACK TOGETHER.

TELL ME, ISN'T IT A GOAL FOR MOST FLESHY CREATURES TO BE MARRIED? FILL IN THOSE MISSING PARTS OF YOUR SOUL?
I'LL ANSWER THAT WITH ANOTHER QUESTION. ISN'T IT A GOAL FOR MOST ANIMALS TO BREED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND CONTINUE THE GENETIC LEGACY IN SPITE OF EXTINCTION LOOMING?


!
FUCKING...
WAIT UP!
I'D SAY YOU HAVE A POINT, BUT WHAT IF YOU WENT DOWN ANOTHER PATH?

SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME ONE OF THE BEST THINGS YOU CAN DO IN THE PHYSICAL REALM IS TO LEAVE A LEGACY. EITHER BY BLOOD, OR BY A DEED. TELL ME THIS, WOULD A UNIFICATION OF SOULS ACHEIVE A LEGACY?
I WANT TO SAY YES, BECAUSE OF THE DOMINO EFFECT WITH SURROUNDING PEOPLE.
THE PATH ALONE WOULD HAVE BEEN COLD, BUT IT'S THE SAME RESULT. EVEN IF IT WOULD END SOONER.
LEGACY BY A DEED OUTLIVES FLESH ANYWAY.

NOW YOU SEE! I MIGHT'VE TAKEN ON ANOTHER REINCARNATION, BUT THE PATH IS MADE BY A DESIRE.
THESE PATHS, THESE ACTIONS EXIST FOR A REASON.
ALONE, OR UNITED WITH A COMPLIMENT.
WE REMAIN AT THE DISMAY OF MANY.
SO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.


DISTORTED AS A RESULT OF THE MODERN AGE.
SPILL INTO THE SPIRITUAL REALM, OR ROT INSIDE.
THE ANSWERS ARE IN YOUR DREAMS.

WITH
LOVE.